



MEMORANDUM

TO: Indiana School Superintendents and Principals

FROM: Gary Wallyn, Director of School Accreditation and Awards

DATE: August 29, 2008

SUBJECT: Indiana School Accreditation Process Revisions

In conjunction with the [State Board of Education](#) initiative to offer more flexibility to schools, the Indiana Department of Education is streamlining the procedure for accrediting schools by shifting the main focus of accreditation from compliance to assisting schools with the greatest need.

The final year of the three-year accreditation cycle was concluded as of June 30, 2008. Schools whose accreditation year just concluded will be accorded accreditation status following the release of school accountability category placements measuring 2007-08 school performance and improvement. Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, the state will transition to a real-time accreditation system with annual reporting in conjunction with the announcement of category placements.

The following list highlights some of the key changes to the accreditation process:

- School and corporation-level assurance forms will be combined into a single submittal and kept on file until either local information changes or the administrator responsible for assuring compliance changes.
- A secure, online legal standard compliance grid will allow an administrator to view the latest compliance information in an easy-to-understand “stoplight” format. Links to all documentation regarding each legal standard will be accessible from the grid.
- A school may choose or design its own process for school improvement planning, so long as the process meets minimum procedural guidelines in statute.
- School Improvement Plan requirements are updated to include AYP student group improvement and allow a school to focus only on areas identified as needing improvement.
- The plan is reviewed and revised annually, and the most current edition is submitted to the DOE through the DOE-RR. All plans will be posted on the DOE website for public review.

The State Board of Education will continue discussions about merging the accreditation review mechanism with state accountability measures to form a single comprehensive system. The goal is a single planning document for all federal and state programs, aligned with the differentiated accountability process recently approved for Title I schools, and supported by appropriate measures of real growth in achievement. Additional details related to these changes will be forthcoming, including a series of statewide workshops following ISTEP+ testing. Related questions or concerns may be directed to 317-232-9060 or 800-894-4044.